

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 NAIROB 10729 221449Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
/035 W

-----001663 221737Z /53

R 221231Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 693
CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI
INFO JCS WASHDC
AMEMBASSY VICTORIA
SECDEF WASHDC
CNO WASHDC
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
COMSEVENTHFLT
CINCUSNAVERU LONDON
COMIDEASTFOR
COMNAVAIRPAC SAN DIEGO CA
CTG SEVEN TWO
CTG SEVEN TWO PT THREE

S E C R E T NAIROBI 10729

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, US, KE
SUBJECT: GUIDELINES FOR P-3 FLIGHTS TO KENYA

REF: (A) NAIROBI 10618 DTG 190845Z AUG 77, (B) STATE 009879 DTG
150242Z JAN 77 (NOTAL), (C) CINCPACFLT 202031Z AUG 77

1. REF A REQUESTED THAT OVERNIGHT STAY OF P-3 PROPOSED
FLIGHT TO NAIROBI IN SEPTEMBER BE REDUCED FROM TWO TO ONE
NIGHTS AND THAT ARRIVAL NOT TAKE PLACE ON LABOR DAY. THIS
HAS BEEN AGREED BY CINCPAC FTL IN REF C, AND FLIGHT
CLEARANCE HAS BEEN REQUESTED FROM GOVERNMENT OF KENYA IN
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ACCORDANCE WITH REVISED FLIGHT PLAN SUBMITTED BY
CTG SEVEN TWO PT THREE. HOWEVER, REF C ALSO RAISES
BROADER ISSUE OF WHETHER FLIGHTS IN FUTURE SHOULD
REMAIN LONGER THAN ONE OVERNIGHT.

2. OUR ORAL UNDERSTANDING WITH GOVERNMENT OF KENYA
ON P-3 FLIGHTS IS BASED ON AN APPROACH MADE PURSUANT

TO REF B, WHICH INDICATED THAT FLIGHTS WOULD INVOLVE "OVERNIGHT STOP FOR CREW AND DEPARTURE ON DAY FOLLOWING ARRIVAL." (PARA 5, REF B). CINCPACFLT IN REF C ALLUDES TO JULY 1976 P-3 FLIGHTS TO KENYA WHICH ENTAILED THREE-DAY STAY. THESE 1976 FLIGHTS WERE DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY FOR HIGH POLITICAL VISIBILITY, WERE OPERATED TO AND FROM THE CIVIL AIRPORT, AND WERE CLEARLY IN KENYA'S POLITICAL INTERESTS. SUBSEQUENT REGULAR P-3 FLIGHTS ARE IN OUR INTEREST BUT NOT DEMONSTRABLY IN KENYA'S INTERESTS; THEY ARE PERMITTED BY KENYA AS AN ACCOMMODATION TO US. THEY OPERATE TO AND FROM THE KENYA AIR FORCE BASE AT EASTLEIGH, WHERE THEIR VISIBILITY IS LOW. WITH RESPECT TO THE POLITICAL SITUATION AT THE PRESENT TIME, CINCPACFLT MAY NOT BE AWARE THAT OUR ANNOUNCEMENT OF DECISION IN PRINCIPLE TO SUPPLY DEFENSIVE ARMS TO SOMALIA HAS DRAWN CIRITICISM FROM GOVERNMENT OF KENYA, AND WE JUDGE THAT NOW IF NOT PROPITIOUS MOMENT TO REVISE THE GUIDELINES OF P-3 FLIGHTS.

3. THE OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS MENTIONED BY CINCPACFLT IN REF C DO NOT APPEAR ROVERRIDING. WE NOTE THAT THE ORIGINAL REQUEST FOR TWO-NIGHT LAYOVER OF P-3 IN SEPTEMBER WOULD HAVE THE AIRCRAFT DEPART AT 0900Z, WHICH IS HIGH NOON IN NAIROBI. MOREOVER, PREVIOUS P-3 FLIGHTS HAVE ALL DEPARTED MID-DAY. IT
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IS INACCURATE TO SAY THAT FLIGHTS LAND ABOUT SUNSET-- ALL FLIGHTS TO DATE HAVE LANDED IN MID-AFTERNOON (WHICH IS PREFERRED TIME FOR CONVENIENCE OF KENYA AIR FORCE).

4. FOR REASONS SET FORTH ABOVE, UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED THIS EMBASSY DOES NOT CONCUR IN FUTURE P-3 OVERNIGHT STAYS OF TWO NIGHTS.
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Message Attributes

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